



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

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POTABLE WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR A COTTAGE FOOD OPERATION

An approved source of potable water is required for all cottage food operations. If the water will be provided by a regulated water district or small water system where water quality analysis is performed on a routine basis to ensure the water supply meets minimum bacterial and chemical standards, no further action is necessary.

If the water for the cottage food operation will be obtained from a private water well, the water source must meet the primary water quality standards for a transient, non-community water system. Analytical data results will be required to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Health prior to approval of a Class A or Class B operation. The analysis must be performed for the constituents listed below and must be completed by a California state certified laboratory. Should the water supply not meet the minimum "potable" water quality standards required by law, the cottage food operation will not be approved until proof of a complying water supply is submitted.

Initial Analysis

The initial analysis shall consist of the following:

- A total coliform bacteria test which shows the absence of coliforms bacteria
- An inorganic chemicals test to demonstrate constituents from table below are at or below the maximum contaminant levels (MCL)

Inorganic Chemicals	MCL
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L
Nitrate (as N)	10.0 mg/L
Nitrite (as N)	1.0 mg/L

- A general mineral/physical test to demonstrate constituents from the table below are at or below the secondary maximum contaminant levels.

General Mineral/Physical	Secondary MCL
Iron	0.3 mg/L
Manganese	0.05 mg/L
Specific Conductance	1600 μ S/cm

Annual Analysis

The annual analysis shall consist of a total coliform bacteria test which shows the absence of coliforms bacteria and a nitrate test which shows nitrates are at or below the MCL for nitrate. In addition, a nitrite test is required on a triennial basis which shows nitrites are at or below the MCL for nitrites.